

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 7, 2006, Applicant amends this application and requests reconsideration in view of the amendments and the following remarks. In this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended, Claim 4 is cancelled without prejudice and no claims have been added or cancelled, so that Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-8 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,878,161 to Lenker (Lenker). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Anticipation exists only if all of the elements of the claimed invention are present in a system or method disclosed, expressly or inherently, in a single prior art reference. Therefore, if it can be shown that there is one difference between the claimed invention and what is disclosed in the single reference, there can be no anticipation.

Lenker discloses a stent graft and a deployment device. The stent graft comprises a support structure and a tubular graft. More particularly, the stent graft comprises a tubular graft supported by annular support members. The annular support members are preferably spring members having a predetermined radii and are preferably constructed of a material such as Nitinol. The tubular graft may be made from a biocompatible, low porosity woven fabric that is thin walled. Once such material is silk.

Lenker fails to disclose or even remotely suggest a graft comprising spider dragline silk and having preformed crimped sections between the one or more scaffold structures. This represents two distinctions, thus there can be no anticipation. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicant would be willing to interview the present case with the Examiner.
Accordingly, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 732-524-2518 if such a call would facilitate the prosecution of this application.

A favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/Carl J. Evens/

By: _____

Carl J. Evens
Reg. No. 33,874

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2518
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